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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 82% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 82,962 | Nifty 25,388 | Gold 73,150 | Silver 84,000 | Dollar 83.97 | Euro 92.27 | GBP 109.61

CITY / PAGE 2

WELFARE, BUT WHOSE?

Appointment of chairpersons, members to the Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards for 26 districts causes much furore

CITY / PAGE 7

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Hoysala police share heroic stories during suicide prevention week, putting spotlight on their role as first responders, life savers

Locals worry about disappearing Sunkalpalya Lake; say it is anyway being eaten into, but last year's road-widening project has dealt it severe blow

CASE OF THE VANISHING LAKE

KAUSHIK JN

Hardly any water in lake despite good rainfall this year

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Abutting Uttarahalli Main Road in west Bengaluru is Sunkalpalya Lake.

Nestled among trees and considerable vegetation around it, the water body from a distance appears to be a picturesque gem.

However, locals are worried as Sunkalpalya Lake appears to be shrinking in size leaving locals wondering whether it might disappear altogether. They say the lake has suffered mostly over the last one year after Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) started widening Uttarahalli Main Road into a four-lane stretch.

"The lake is almost dead. There is hardly any water despite some good rainy days over the last couple of months," said a resident of the area.

A time-lapse picture of the lake shows it has reduced in size considerably over the last couple of years.

> **"While BBMP says it has received permission from Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) for the road widening project, such expansions that encroach upon lake area or impact water holding capacity should be deemed illegal**
>
> —Resident of Uttarahalli

Rainfall not enough

Locals say recent rainfall has not been able to improve water level in the lake and it appears the water body is slowly inching towards its demise.

Satellite imagery of the lake shows that while it has been reducing in size over the last ten years, it has been the most impacted over the last couple of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

TOO DIRTY FOR A SIP

Plan to divert TG Halli Reservoir water to construction activities as it is 'unfit' for drinking

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) Reservoir, once intended to supply drinking water to Bengaluru, has been unable to serve this purpose for the past few years due to low storage. Now, there is now a proposal to utilise the reservoir's water for construction and industrial activities, as it is currently not suitable for drinking.

Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre has written to the Chief Minister, requesting a meeting with the Ministers of Water Resources and Minor Irrigation to discuss plans for purifying the polluted water from the Arkavathi River, stored at the TG Halli Reservoir. He suggested that collaboration between public and private sectors could help establish water purification plants at TG Halli and other lakes in Bengaluru. "Once treated, the water could be supplied to construction sites and industrial zones, including the Peenya Industrial Area. This would not only generate revenue for the government but also reduce the use of potable water for non-drinking purposes," Khandre noted.

In his letter, Khandre also highlighted that the Environment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Urban fairytales

Watch 'Remember Remember,' a collective set of plays imagined and written as urban fairytales, written and directed by Prashanth Kumar Nair. Created with love, care, and magic, 'Remember Remember' explores what it means to hold on to our urban stories and fairytales. And sometimes, to let them go. As one of the most successful productions of Tahatto, it is making a revival on popular demand after five years. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: September 15, 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm**

02 Stories from ancient history

Prepare to be transported to one of the most exciting eras in Ancient Indian History. Join in for the launch of Raj Thambu's debut book, 'Lakshmana's Last Stand – The Rise of Nagvanshis,' at Atta Galatta. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: September 14, 3:30 pm**

03 Tech festival

Orchids International School is all set to host the 'Mekathlon 2024' Bengaluru edition, a leading tech fest that will see 1,500+ young minds compete in robotics challenges, model making, quizzes, and more. This unique STEM fest will provide a platform for students to enhance their problem-solving skills and apply scientific and mathematical concepts in practical settings, emphasising the importance of STEM education among future innovators. **Where: Orchids The International School, Horamavu Campus When: September 14 & 15, 10:30 am to 7 pm**

Positions filled after 6 years; activists seek full selections

With posts only filled in 26 districts, child rights activists are up in arms against selection process for Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After a delay of more than six years, the state government has finally announced the appointment of chairpersons and members to the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) for 26 districts. However, the chairpersons and members of CWCs and JJBs for Bengaluru Urban, Bidar, Davangere, Raichur, Tumakuru, and Yadgir districts are yet to be finalised.

Based on the population, Bengaluru Urban District should have five CWCs, and the existing chairpersons and members have already completed six years in office as against a three-year term. Child rights activists are unsatisfied with the selection of members for the CWCs of Chitradurga, Hospet, Ramanagara, and Vijayanagara. They want the state government to commence the interviews for the selection of chairpersons and members for CWCs and JJBs of the six districts.

Lakshmi Prasanna, a child rights activist, said that the process of interviews for the selection of chairpersons and members of the CWCs and JJBs commenced more than a year ago, but the selection of members for these posts is yet to begin in these six districts. "I want the selection committee to complete the process of interviews at a stretch," she said.

They complained that five practicing advocates were selected for these positions for Chitradurga and two members of a family—husband and wife—were selected for Kolar. "The objective of the CWCs and JJBs is rehabilitation, reintegration, and repatriation of children in distress and trouble. How do you expect a child-friendly environment at the CWCs and JJBs that have practicing advocates?" questioned a child rights activist. They are further questioning the selection of Dr Haniyur Chandre Gowda as the member of Ramanagara CWC. "...How come Dr Gowda, who hails from Bengaluru, is selected as the member of the Ramanagara CWC as his name was not in the list of shortlisted candidates? As per the norms, the selection committee has to select the candidates shortlisted for the posts of chairpersons and members of the CWCs and the JJBs."

> **"How do you expect a child-friendly environment at CWCs and JJBs that have practicing advocates?** – Child rights activist

'The objective of the CWCs and JJBs is rehabilitation, reintegration, repatriation of children in distress'

Nagasimha G Rao of the Child Rights Trust emphasised the need for selected members to know about child rights and child protection issues with the utmost urgency. "As esteemed members of the CWC and JJB, they have a profound responsibility to work tirelessly in the best interests of children. Their dedication and expertise will be crucial in ensuring the welfare and safety of vulnerable children. I want the members and chairpersons to familiarise themselves with the latest developments in child rights and protection and engage with stakeholders, including children, families, and experts in the field," Rao added.

Appointments withheld after complaints

The circular issued by the Under Secretary of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens on September 9 advised the members and chairpersons to follow the guidelines, such as keeping children's information confidential, visiting orphanages, prioritising rehabilitation, and communicating in a child-friendly manner.

However, on September 12, the department issued a notification stating that the order issued on September 9 appointing chairpersons and members for the CWCs and the JJBs has been withheld till further orders due to complaints received on the selection of these positions of the CWCs and the JJBs.

NGO, citizens seek dedicated bus lanes in city

Urban Land Transport (DULT). The petitons raised demands for the execution of 11 bus priority lanes in Bengaluru as proposed in the city's Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) as well as the reinstallation of one of the bus lanes on Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Jaymala, a garment factory worker from Tumakuru Road, says, "It takes two hours to go from Nagasandra on Tumakuru Road to the central areas of the city like KR Market. If the bus lane is demarcated, then it reduces travel time considerably. Instead of using the Metro, we will be able to use the bus and save on the commute expenses."

Tumakuru Road is one of the city's key routes, connecting the central business district with the northwestern suburbs and industrial areas. The road experiences significant traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.

Additionally, the community also demanded streamlined, safe, and well-managed public bus infrastructure, with an increased Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus fleet size of 15,000, better frequency, and routes covering all areas effectively. Greenpeace India has managed to garner the support of 28,995 citizens through petition signatures for the said demands.

Bus ridership in city

Bengaluru's public bus transport has seen a notable increase in ridership among women due to the free bus Shakti scheme implemented by the Karnataka government in 2023. The installation of a dedicated bus lane on the ORR in 2020 increased the daily ridership by 3,727 in a month, as stated by BMTC. However, the lack of dedicated public bus lanes affects the mobility of marginalised communities, largely women and other bus commuters who are dependent on public buses for their daily commute.

Greenpeace noted that at present BMTC faces critical deficiencies, including a fleet of only 6,073 buses, insufficient to cater to current ridership levels effectively. "Bus lanes are an important part of any public bus transport system, which help to improve the efficiency and reliability of the public bus. By submitting the petition demands to DULT with the support of members of the public, Greenpeace India aims at a fair and just transition by including the marginalised communities in amplifying the demand for public bus transport in Bengaluru. We urge the reinstatement of the ORR bus lane and a cohesive plan for the successful installment and long-term running of the other proposed bus lanes that can help in alleviating traffic congestion, reducing air pollution, and other environmental impacts in the city," said Sharat MS, from Greenpeace India.

— BMB

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459 km of roads to get fresh coat

CM Siddaramaiah announces plans to begin resurfacing work across Bengaluru by March, with new app tracking pothole repairs and ₹1,700 crore allocated for white-topping projects

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With the city's road conditions deteriorating, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that 459 km of roads will be asphalted by March next year. During a recent inspection, he noted that Bengaluru's road network spans roughly 12,878 kilometres, including about 1,344.84 kilometres of arterial and sub-arterial roads and 11,533.16 kilometres of ward-level roads.

"Traditionally, the quality of road surfaces in Bengaluru has deteriorated due to the installation of various utilities such as Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) cables, water supply and sewer pipes, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) gas pipelines, high-capacity Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) cables, and Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) cables. This has led to frequent potholes and surface damage. To tackle this issue, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has set up a batch mix plant to quickly repair potholes on arterial and sub-arterial roads. Additionally, ward-level roads have been divided with each ward receiving a fund of Rs 15 lakh for pothole repairs. BBMP is working to address potholes and during the monsoon season, a cooler asphalt mix will be prepared to manage the increased number of potholes."

CM said that various departments responsible for road excavation, including BESCOM, KPTCL, and GAIL Gas, have been directed to repair the potholes resulting from their work. Coordination with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and other departments have been established to streamline road excavation and repair processes. To prevent new potholes, road development projects now include the construction of ducts on major roads.

File photo of a road filled with potholes

Measures taken

CM said, "A new mobile app has been introduced to transparently identify and repair potholes and monitor the repair process within set deadlines. For the fiscal year 2023-24, a budget of Rs 1,700 crore has been allocated for white-topping projects, which will create durable and low-maintenance roads. Bengaluru has 1,611 kilometres of arterial and sub-arterial roads, of which 459 kilometres are in poor condition. The government will resurface these roads at Rs 659.71 crores, with work starting in November and ending in March. The app has already facilitated the repair of 1,376 potholes, with efforts in progress to address 2,684 additional potholes. Each ward is allocated Rs 15 lakhs for local road repairs, and work is ongoing. BBMP's batch mix plant will provide asphalt for repairing potholes on arterial and sub-arterial roads, to complete all repairs by September 20, 2024."

BBMP zonal commissioner (west) Archana said that repairs are underway on major roads in the Western areas in poor condition. During an inspection at the Okalipuram and Sujata Talkies area, she noted that road repairs are being conducted using milling machines to address areas that are either completely damaged, uneven, or loose. The process involves milling the affected areas, cleaning the debris, applying a tack coat emulsion, and then laying bitumen followed by rolling to ensure a proper asphalt layer.

> **"Only major roads with significant damge are undergoing milling and repair. Other areas are being addressed using hot and cold mix** – Archana, BBMP

"Only major roads with significant damage are undergoing milling and repair. Other areas are being addressed using hot mix and cold mix methods to fill potholes. Daily reports on pothole repairs are being collected from officials to monitor progress. Maintenance on major roads is being closely managed, with efforts focused on quickly completing repairs on remaining potholes. Software is used to track complaints about potholes on ward roads, and engineers are continuously inspecting and repairing these roads to ensure timely resolution," she said.

Techies push for non-stop Bengaluru-Mysuru bus service

Commuters call for direct routes between key city areas due to high demand and need for more frequent services

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Many techies commuting daily from Mysuru to Bengaluru have requested Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to introduce non-stop services between the two cities. They propose a bus route from Silk Board to Electronic City, connecting Mysuru via NICE Road. Given the high number of daily commuters, they suggest dedicated buses starting from 6 AM and post 7 PM to accommodate peak travel times.

Achyuthanandan, a techie who proposed the idea for this route, mentioned that it could benefit many commuters. "A lot of individuals travel between Bangalore and Mysore from the Outer Ring Road. As I also travel frequently, I thought having a dedicated route would definitely help. Initially, I reached out to the KSRTC District Controller of the Mysuru division, who was supportive of the idea, provided we could gather more people interested. With the help of transport enthusiasts, we managed to bring together around 250 individuals who also saw the need for a dedicated route between Bengaluru and Mysuru," he said.

A survey of 150 respondents revealed that over 45% are weekend travellers, while more than 20% travel daily. This indicates a strong potential for running the service more frequently.

Achyuthanandan said, "Although there is a non-stop service every 15 minutes, it only goes to the Mysuru bus stand near Kengeri. From there, passengers must travel to inner parts of the city and then switch to the metro or another bus, which can be inconvenient for reaching areas like Electronic City or Silk Board. A direct bus service that reaches dedicated stops in about 3 hours would be much more convenient for everyone. "

Survey of 150 shows 45% weekend travellers and 20% daily, indicating high demand for more frequent service

Another daily passenger said, "There is a high demand of people travelling frequently from Mysore to Bengaluru. People rush to get into these buses. Having a dedicated route will help many people to reach their workplaces easily."

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Leaking roof

Kengeri

The roof at Kengeri's Satellite Bus Station is leaking, highlighting the need for regular maintenance to prevent accidents that could risk lives.

Water disruption

Mathikere

The borewell in the Railway Colony, Mathikere, is the primary water source, as Cauvery water is unavailable. Ongoing construction opposite 11-44, 2nd Main Road has disrupted the supply.

Drain cleanup

Thirumenahalli

The roadside drain near Haj Bhavan in Thirumenahalli urgently needs cleaning.

ADVERTORIAL

Mumbai's Iconic Merwans Brings Its Baking Excellence to Bengaluru

Get ready for a delightful surprise, Bengaluru! The iconic Merwans, a bakery that has been a household name in Mumbai for decades, is now in the city. Known for their mouth-watering cakes, pastries, and savouries, Merwans has earned a special place in the hearts of millions, and now it's all set to win over Bengaluru with the same irresistible charm. With its unwavering commitment to quality, affordability, and a rich legacy dating back nearly a century, this is a culinary experience you won't want to miss!

The story of Merwans is a tale of tradition, family, and a love for baking that began way back in 1930. Founded by Mr. K. M. Irani and his wife Mrs. D. K. Irani, what started as a small family-run bakery quickly became renowned for its fresh, delectable treats. Their son, Mr. Merwan Irani, took the reins in 1972, rebranding the bakery as 'Merwans' in 1978. Under his leadership, the bakery transformed into a beloved institution, blending timeless recipes with a modern twist. For decades, Merwans has been synonymous with the finest cakes, pastries, and their iconic Surti butter and Khari biscuits, making it a must-visit for generations of Mumbai locals.

In the past decade, Merwans began a new chapter, expanding through a franchise model, allowing more people to savour their delectable offerings. With 37 outlets across Mumbai & Pune today, Merwans has established itself as the go-to destination for delicious, affordable baked goods. And now, with their spacious 1,600 sq. ft. flagship store in Bengaluru, the brand is set to make waves in the city's vibrant food scene.

Merwans' menu is a testament to their passion for baking. From rich, creamy cakes and pastries to freshly baked chicken buns, puffs, and more, there's something to satisfy every palate. Despite their ever-growing popularity, Merwans has remained committed to its roots: delivering high-quality products at unbeatable prices. Imagine biting into a delicious chicken puff for just ₹20 – a price that's hard to beat for a treat that's both affordable and satisfying.

The Jayanagar outlet in Bengaluru promises more than just delicious treats. The thoughtfully designed space, with its sleek yet cosy décor, offers an inviting atmosphere perfect for indulging in your favourite pastry or enjoying a relaxing coffee break. The Bengaluru flagship store has been crafted to give customers an immersive experience, where you can not only taste their famous products but also get a feel for the rich heritage behind the brand.

VISIT MERWANS
Ground Floor, 35/32, Old, 64, 11th Main Rd, opposite to Axis Bank, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560041

Excitement is already building in the city, with food influencers like Darshan Gowda expressing enthusiasm for Merwans' arrival. "Merwans are known for highest hygiene standards while offering a wide range of tasty and affordable items like cookies, cakes, and savouries – making it a must-visit for foodies across the city."

Merwans is not just bringing their famous baked goods to Bengaluru, but also sharing a piece of their storied history. With plans to further expand in the city through a franchise model and a dedicated factory ready to meet the growing demand, Merwans is poised to become a beloved name in Bengaluru, just as it has been in Mumbai. So, come take a bite and experience the "eight-decade Irani legacy" that has been winning hearts for generations!

Here's 5 choices for healthier you & happier earth

Healthy eating and environmental sustainability are two goals that often go hand in hand. With growing concerns about climate change and resource depletion, it's becoming increasingly important to make food choices that support both our health and the planet. Here are five key strategies to help you achieve this balance:

Embrace plant-based eating

A plant-based diet is not only beneficial for your health but also for the environment, as you can significantly lower your carbon footprint. Fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and whole grains require fewer resources to produce compared to animal-based products.

Reduce food waste

Minimising food waste is crucial for both environmental sustainability and personal health. Plan your meals, use leftovers creatively, and store food properly to extend its shelf life. Composting food scraps also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By being mindful of portion sizes and avoiding overbuying, you can reduce waste and save money.

Limit processed foods

Processed foods often come with excessive packaging, contributing to environmental pollution. These foods are also typically less nutritious. Opt for whole, minimally processed foods, and try to buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste. Bringing your own reusable bags when shopping can further decrease your environmental impact.

Choose whole grains

Whole grains such as brown rice, quinoa, and oats are not only healthier, but they also have a lower environmental impact compared to refined grains. Whole grains require less processing, which means less energy consumption and fewer emissions. They also provide more nutrients and fibre, contributing to a healthier diet.

Use reusable water bottles

Choosing filtered water over bottled water can significantly reduce plastic waste and lower your carbon footprint. Reusable water bottles are a sustainable option that also encourages regular hydration, which is essential for maintaining a healthy diet.

–Femina Food

BM Food & Night Life

Safety approval shadow over state's solar plan

All new solar projects will need nod from Chief Electrical Inspector to the government of state

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

All new solar rooftop projects, including residential projects, above 10 KiloWatt capacity in Karnataka will now require safety approval from the Chief Electrical Inspector to the government of state (CEIG).

A circular issued on Thursday states that CEIG will henceforth be the authority for issuing electrical safety approvals. So far, ESCOM officials have given safety approvals for solar rooftops. The requirement of safety approval for smaller projects was withdrawn by Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) in 2016 to promote rooftop solar. Apartment complexes say the added statutory requirement will make the process cumbersome and impact the solar rooftop programme.

"So far, rooftop solar up to one MegaWatt capacity was exempted from obtaining safety approval. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set guidelines to ensure safety for projects with lesser capacity. CEIG's safety approval will prove cumbersome and impact the rooftop solar programme as most of the residential complexes will now have to obtain this approval," Satish Mallya, vice president of the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF).

Experts say, that while some safety standards need to be met even in case of projects with less than one MW capacity, ESCOM engineers have addressed this concern so far and the system has worked fine.

According to Ramesh Shivanna, president of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA), the procedure to obtain safety approval will involve physical inspection of the project site and safety checks of solar panels, electric connections, etc.

Solar Panel installed on rooftop for residence (File photo)

> **"Getting approval implies running from pillar to post. At present, neither the state nor electrical inspectorate is well prepared to have such a system**
>
> –SS Raghunandan, KREA

"This new requirement will make the process unwieldy for residential complexes, educational institutions, and MSMEs going for solar rooftops. It is an unnecessary step and KRESMA is planning to make a representation to CEIG to roll it back. So far, DISCOM engineers have been managing these aspects and we will press for the status quo," said Shivanna.

The solar rooftop programme that was started 10 years ago has been plagued by various issues in Karnataka since inception, opine the experts. It is only in the last two years that the industry is making some progress.

According to data from Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), 172.14 MW of rooftop solar projects were installed between March 2023 and July 2024. With this momentum, the total capacity of rooftop solar in the state has crossed the 600 MW mark.

A little over 50 MW of solar rooftops were installed between April and July this year. During 2023-24, 121.82 MW of rooftop capacity was installed; nearly double the capacity in 2022-23 (79.57MW) and the highest installed capacity reported.

SS Raghunandan, president of Karnataka Renewable Energy Association (KREA), fears this added obligation will be detrimental for the industry.

"Getting the safety approval implies running from pillar to post, and completing inspection and audit formalities. At present, neither the state nor the electrical inspectorate is well prepared to have such a system in place. Safety requirements of smaller projects should be the responsibility of installers. As per KERC's tariff order rolled out in 2022, installers are mandated to provide a declaration and be responsible for safety. However, if the government is dead set on this requirement, it should be at least an online process with minimal human interference to avoid corruption," said Raghunandan.

Tree census to pick up pace

BBMP now claims that the census work has picked up. Deputy Forest Conservation Officer, BLG Swamy said, "A software tool has been developed in collaboration with the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Application Centre (KSRSAC) to manage the tree census. Bengaluru, with its geographic area of 840 square kilometres, has been divided into eight units of 100 sq/km each." He added that BBMP has appointed eight contractors, one for each unit. These contractors are responsible for recording details such as the species, girth, and photographs of the trees in the software. So far, the tree census is underway across 198 old wards of Bengaluru, and approximately 1,43,100 trees have been identified.

New Archish Fertility branch

Archish Fertility & IVF has opened a new branch at Electronic City Centre in collaboration with Neo Health Clinics. Speaking at the event, scientific director and co-founder, Rishina Bansal said, "It is encouraging to see more women and couples opting for fertility preservation. People are becoming more informed about their fertility choices, resulting in a rise in women choosing egg freezing to manage their parenthood plans."

Dr Impashree CM, fertility consultant added, "At Archish, we aim to offer couples the most advanced treatments while also promoting awareness about fertility testing at a younger age and the options available. Better awareness of hormonal health can play a significant role in maintaining reproductive health."

Pedestrians' safety compromised in Mahadevapura

Residents demand urgent action on dangerous footpaths, blocked drains in Mahadevapura

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Residents of Mahadevapura are facing serious safety issues due to poorly maintained and hazardous footpaths. The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) is calling on the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to take responsibility for ensuring the safety of pedestrians by properly maintaining footpaths. Despite substantial budgets being allocated for infrastructure, BNP questions how funds are being prioritised, as the safety of those walking along the streets appears to be neglected.

During a discussion between BNP and BBMP's road department, officials revealed that the budget for footpath maintenance has not yet been released. This delay has left contractors unpaid, who in turn have not compensated the workers to fix the footpaths.

Residents in the area have highlighted several key concerns. One major issue is the lack of footpath slabs. In many parts of Mahadevapura, slabs are either broken or completely missing, forcing pedestrians to walk on the busy roads. This not only increases the risk of accidents but also creates significant challenges for elderly people, children, and those with disabilities.

In addition, the absence of proper footpath covers has led to frequent blockages in the drains. When it rains, these open drains overflow, creating unsanitary conditions and causing water to flood the roads, making it difficult for both pedestrians and vehicles. The stagnant water and accumulating garbage have raised concerns about health risks, especially with the rise in dengue cases in the city.

Several areas, including the stretch from Knightsbridge to Brigade Tech Gardens, Haralur Road, and Sarjapur Road, have been identified as particularly hazardous. The lack of drain covers, along with piles of garbage and damaged footpaths, make walking in these areas especially risky, especially after dark.

Open slabs and electrical obstructions on footpaths defeats the purpose of the path

Ayantika Roy, a resident of Mahadevapura, said, "The stretch from Knightsbridge Apartment to Maruti True Value is a mess. Garbage trucks block traffic and dump waste on the footpaths. It's unacceptable that despite the city's budget allocations, we're left with unsafe footpaths and missing slabs. As residents, we feel ignored and hope the authorities address these issues immediately."

Lalithamba BV, Governing Council member & Zonal leader of BNP, Bommanahalli, echoed these concerns, stating, "The condition of the footpaths in Mahadevapura is an unfortunate example of the neglect faced by this area. Where are the crores of rupees allocated for the maintenance of roads and footpaths going? Pedestrian safety is not a luxury, but a necessity."

The residents point out that when bulky budgets are allocated for projects like tunnel road project, basic infrastructure like providing good roads and footpaths to walk on, continues to remain a dream, which though is a basic need, is treated like a luxury.

Saving lives, one call at a time

B'luru Hoysala police share their stories and showcase their vital role in preventing suicides through swift, effective interventions during Suicide Prevention Week

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

During Suicide Prevention Week, the Bengaluru Hoysala police highlight their crucial roles as first responders, negotiators, and counsellors, sharing their impactful experiences as lifesavers.

In one incident on August 16, when most of the people were busy celebrating the Varamahalakshmi festival, ASI Nagaraju H from HSR Layout Police station received an emergency call from the 112 helpline.

At around 1:30 PM, the Hoysala team rushed to HSR Layout, where they encountered a man threatening to jump from the fourth floor of a building. A crowd of 500 to 600 people had gathered below.

"The situation was tense", recalls Nagaraju as the man repeatedly threatened to jump if any police officer approached him, leaving the team to act carefully. "I immediately alerted the Sub-Inspector and the crime team, instructing them to come in plain clothes, as the man had made it clear he didn't want the police involved", he said.

The officers hid nearby, waiting for the right moment. After two and a half hours of tense negotiation, the man finally asked for a glass of water. Seizing the moment, the police team swiftly grabbed and restrained him, preventing the suicide.

Despite some resistance, during which one officer was injured, the team successfully rescued the man and rushed him to the hospital. It was later revealed that the victim had been admitted to the hospital previously for mental health conditions, and police believe these may have led to his suicide attempt.

DCP reports 900 suicide calls in six months, with many lives saved by team's quick intervention

Another such instance occurred on August 8, when Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) M Veershmurthy from Sheshadripuram Police Station, along with Head Constable Prabhakar, responded to a call at 8:48 AM. They arrived at the scene within two minutes, where a man had climbed to the fifth-floor terrace of a building, removed the stairs, and threatened to jump if anyone approached him.

"We spent nearly three hours, from 8:50 AM to 11:25 AM, trying to convince him to come down," ASI Veershmurthy recounted. "At first, he was unwilling to listen. He demanded to speak to the media and had unresolved issues with his family. We assured him that we would help, and after a lengthy negotiation, he agreed to come down."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Command Center), Kshama Mishra told BM that in the last 6 months, they have received 900 calls of suicides and attempts to suicide and in many instances, the quick response and intervention by the Hoysala team has rescued many people.

"We are continuously working to improve the system, from the moment a distress call is received, to assigning it to the concerned Hoysala team, taking necessary action, resolving issues at their level, and escalating to higher authorities when required, we monitor all these stages closely and ensure feedback is received."

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda stated, "Whenever we do receive these calls, our teams act swiftly and have successfully prevented several suicides. The Hoysala officers, trained by NIMHANS, provide initial counselling and help manage these sensitive situations. The Hoysala teams often work closely with the victim's relatives, advising them to seek professional counselling for their loved ones."

Stone pelting, lathi charge in Nagamangala

Tensions escalated in Nagamangala, Mandya district, during a Ganesha idol immersion procession on Wednesday, resulting in stone pelting and violence. Youths from the nearby Badri Koppalu village were leading the religious procession when the situation took a communal turn. A group of miscreants began pelting stones at the procession and even targeted the police, leading to a lathi charge to control the situation. Several shops were vandalised and set on fire, forcing authorities to impose Section 144 in the area to prevent further escalation.

The violence left two police officers injured, while several vehicles and shops were torched. Police responded with baton charges to disperse the crowd and restore order.

According to Inspector-General of Police Boralingaiah, over 50 individuals have been arrested. "We have already arrested more than 52 people and CCTV footage is being reviewed. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar confirmed that senior ADGP officials are overseeing the situation in Nagamangala, describing the incident as a clash rather than a communal riot. He urged against exaggerating or politicising the event, noting that

Charred remains of goods at a shop following clashes between two groups during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession, at Nagamangala in Mandya district,

security measures, including a full police platoon, were implemented to prevent further escalation. The Minister requested that the public focus on resolving the situation constructively and avoid turning it into a political issue." he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in a statement on X (formerly Twitter), " It is clear that stone pelting that took place at Nagamangala in Mandya district at the time of Ganesha discharge is an act of miscreants which threatens the peace and tranquillity of the society. The government has taken this very seriously. More than 50 people have already been arrested in connection and our priority is to maintain peace and order in the society. I request the public to cooperate with us by maintaining peace and restraint without succumbing to incitement."

The incident has sparked political reactions, with BJP leaders, including state president BY Vijayendra and opposition leader R Ashoka, visiting the town to assess the situation. Vijayendra stated in his tweet "Let the police take strict action against the extremists who are trying to make a dent in the society of harmony, who have acted in a way to suppress the customs of the Hindu community and who are trying to insult the Indian heritage forever."

As authorities continue their efforts to restore peace, including route marches by the police, tensions remain high in Nagamangala. The imposition of Section 144 and heightened police presence aim to prevent further violence, but the political and communal undertones suggest that the situation remains fragile.

The police are actively managing traffic in Nagamangala and conducting route marches led by IGP Boralingaiah. **- Sanjana CS**

Man caught smuggling drugs

A 30-year-old man was arrested for allegedly attempting to sneak MDMA crystals concealed in a pair of slippers into Bengaluru's high-security Central Prison. The arrest follows heightened security measures after a recent incident involving actor Darshan inside the prison premises.

The accused, Shabbir Sharif from KG Halli, had obtained a visitor's pass to meet Syed Suhail, an undertrial inmate. During a routine check at the prison's main gate, security personnel from the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF) noticed something off about the slippers that Shabbir was carrying. A closer inspection revealed 23 grammes of MDMA crystals hidden inside the footwear. Shabbir was detained, and both he and Suhail are now facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Karnataka Prisons Act, as per a complaint filed by Karna B Kshatri, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons. The Parappana Agrahara police have registered a case and are investigating the source of the drugs, which are estimated to be worth Rs 2.3 lakh. **–BMB**

Hit-and-run: 3 students lose lives

Three students lost their lives in a tragic hit-and-run accident near Chikkajala on Airport Road in the early hours of Tuesday. The victims, identified as Rohit (22), Suchit (22), and Harsha (22), were students of BSc at GKVK College. According to preliminary investigations by the Chikkajala Traffic Police, Suchit, who was riding the bike, attempted to change lanes at high speed, leading to a collision with a heavy goods vehicle. The driver is said to have fled the scene immediately. The impact was so severe that the bodies of the victims were found strewn across the highway. The group of five friends had gone out for a late-night ride and were returning after stopping for food when the accident occurred. The deceased victims were from Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Bengaluru. **–BMB**

Fire erupts in moving car

A Volkswagen car caught fire while moving near Manchappanahalli Gate in Budigere village, Devanahalli Taluk, on Wednesday. The car, owned by Lokesh from Doddaballapur, was heading from Kadugodi to Doddaballapur when the incident happened. The driver noticed the fire in time and quickly got out of the vehicle, escaping without injuries. Locals extinguished the fire with water in a concrete mixer truck. This incident caused a brief disruption in traffic on the alternate road to Kempegowda International Airport, but the situation returned to normal soon after. The police officials are investigating the cause of the fire. **–BMB**

Treated water may be supplied to construction sites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department's proposal to treat and sell wastewater from Bengaluru's high-rise buildings for construction has already received cabinet approval. This policy, endorsed during a meeting with real estate organizations led by the Deputy Chief Minister, aims to recycle wastewater, generate income, and provide builders with a reliable water source. Moreover, it helps prevent wastewater from polluting lakes and rivers, while maintaining groundwater levels.

The Arkavathi River, originating from the Nandi Hills and joining the Cauvery River at Sangama, has stopped flowing into the TG Halli Reservoir due to rampant encroachments. The river, which runs for 190 km around the outskirts of Bengaluru before merging with the Cauvery, has been heavily affected by urbanisation, contributing to its decline.

Activist Chidanandamurthy, a member of the Arkavathi Kumudvathi Punaschetana Horata Samithi (a committee formed to revive the Arkavathi and Kumudvathi rivers), explained their efforts to rejuvenate the rivers. "Both Arkavathi and Kumudavati, tributaries of the Cauvery, converge at the TG Halli reservoir. We've worked with government bodies to remove silt from lakes, clear encroachments, and halt activities like stone crushing that harm the river's water sources. We've also fought to protect the Hesaraghatta grassland, a key habitat for bird species, from being turned into a film city. Despite these efforts, more support is needed to revive Arkavathi."

Historically, Bengaluru's water supply issues began as early as 1918, when the city's population reached 2.5 lakh. By 1925, the Hesaraghatta Lake had dried up, prompting the government to develop the Thippagondanahalli Reservoir in 1933, under the guidance of Sir M Visvesvaraya. Initially designed to supply 27 million liters of water per day to a population of 3 lakh, the reservoir underwent modifications in 1956 to meet the needs of one million people. Despite these efforts, the demand for water continued to exceed supply, eventually leading to the government's reliance on the Cauvery River.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mahanthesha N S/o Narayanaswamy R/o Sangeetanilaya kempegowda main road near Gayathri kalyana mantapa saraswatipuram tumkur 572105 have changed my name to Mahanthesh N for all purposes.

I, Gopinathan Kanagaraj R/O KODIGEHALLI, changed my son's name from CHRIS NATHAN GOPINATHAN to CHRIS NATHAN for all future purposes

I, Majeed M M S/o Mohammed Ali R/o No.58/3, 14th cross, Gowda Muniswamy Garden, Ejipura, B'luru 560047 have changed my name to MAJEEDH MALAIYIL MOHAMMED affidavit Dt.12/09/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, FATHIHA BANU KHALEEL W/o. M Nishad Ahmed R/o No.65/A, 1st cross, Hosa road, Chowdeshwari Layout, Dodda nagamangala, Bengaluru-560100 have changed my name to FATHIHA BANU, vide affidavit dt: 12.09.2024 before notary V.Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I Hemalatha Venugopal W/o-hoodi Krishnappa Venugopal R/o 415, Behind Vivekananda Ashram Hoodi,Mahadevapura, B'luru-56004 have changed my name to Hemalatha Nanjundaiah for all purposes.

I, RAMAYYA CHIKKASALLAPPA residing at No.14, Magadi Main Road, Herohalli, Bangalore North, Viswaneedam, Bengaluru-560091 has changed my name to RAMAIAH C for all my future documents vide affidavit dated 12.09.2024 sworn before Notary K C Shashikala, Bengaluru

I, AASIYA BEE W/o Abdul Azeez R/at No.E-325, Madeena Nagar, Bomanahalli, Bengaluru- 560068 have changed my name to ASIYA BEGUM vide affidavit dated: 9/9/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

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Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam Shopping Special
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‘Yechury was instrumental in shaping UPA-1 govt’

CM, Deputy CM, Deve Gowda and national leaders condole death of CPI (M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury

File photo of Sitaram Yechury along with Siddaramaiah, Sharad Pawar, DK Shivakumar and others after the swearing in ceremony at the Kanteerava outdoor Stadium

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday condoled the passing away of CPI (M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury and said he was instrumental in shaping the UPA-1 government and led the drafting of common minimum programmes that transformed the country’s policy approach on critical issues.

The Chief Minister described Yechury, who died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on Thursday following prolonged illness, as a fine human being and a multilingual scholar, who enriched public life with his wisdom, wit, and unwavering convictions.

Siddaramiah said Yechury’s role in forming the INDIA bloc and his impactful interventions in the Rajya Sabha earned him respect across the political spectrum.

“His presence at my swearing-in ceremony (as Chief Minister) in 2023 is a cherished memory. His legacy will continue to inspire generations,” he added.

Deputy Chief Minister D Shivakumar said Yechury’s affability and courage of conviction will be missed.

His dedication to his cause will always be remembered: Deve Gowda

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda on Thursday condoled the passing away of Yechury and said his dedication to his cause and to his party will always be remembered.

“I am very saddened to learn that Sitaram Yechury, my longtime friend and colleague, has passed away. My deepest condolences. His dedication to his cause and to his party will always be remembered,” Deve Gowda said.

Outpouring of condolences

Expressing sadness over the demise of the veteran leader, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar wrote on X, “Deeply grieved to learn about the passing away of my friend Sitaram Yechury. We studied together and maintained close ties for over five decades. Always valued our discussions and debates. Like so many others in the political and intellectual world, will really miss his presence.”

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote on X that this will be a loss for national politics. “Sad to know that Sitaram Yechury has passed away. I knew the veteran parliamentarian that he was and his demise will be a loss for the national politics...” read her post on X.

Aam Aadmi party Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Singh, also said that the passing of the CPI (M) leader is an irreparable loss for Indian politics. “A strong voice raised in favour of democracy and constitution, a leading leader Sitaram Yechury who mobilised everyone against communalism, has said goodbye to the world, but he will always remain alive in the voice of the poor,

> **“I am very saddened to learn that Sitaram Yechury, my longtime friend and colleague, has passed away**
>
> —HD Deve Gowda

labourers and the oppressed, his departure is an irreparable loss for Indian politics. Red Salute to Comrade Sitaram Yechury ji with a bowed head,” Singh said on X.

The CPI(M) party also posted on X and said, “It is with profound grief that we announce the passing away of CPIM General Secretary, our beloved Comrade Sitaram Yechury, at 3.03 pm today, 12th September, at the AIIMS, New Delhi. He was suffering from a respiratory tract infection which developed complications.”

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi said that his years of service is worthy of the greatest respect. “The passing away of Sitaram Yechury is a profound loss for all of us. His years of service and devotion to our country is worthy of the greatest respect. Most of all, he was an inherently decent human being who brought a sense of balance and gentleness to the harsh world of politics. May his soul rest in peace and may his loved ones find the strength and courage to face this tragedy,” Priyanka posted on X. **—Agencies**

Just demand: Remove restrictions on protests by September 15

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Horaatada Hakkigagi Janandolana has demanded that the Chief Minister announce the withdrawal of the order restricting protests to Freedom Park by September 15 which is celebrated as International Day of Democracy. Their open letter to the CM has collected 565 signatures of concerned citizens and activists so far.

“This is not just about the restriction of protests to Freedom Park, but a series of incidents in which the police have abused their power and shut down any public actions such as pamphleteering, candle light vigils or film screenings. We also demand the immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and cases against peaceful protestors, and an inquiry into the incidents of police violence,” said Maitreyi K from All Indian Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ).

Some of the signatories to the open letter are author and historian Ramachandra Guha, renowned Kannada writer Dr Vijayamma, working president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha JM Veerasangaiah, senior writer and former chairperson of Karnataka Nataka Akademi K Marulasiddappa, writer and activist Nagargere Ramesh, senior activist Meenakshi Bali, among others.

KS Vimala of Janawadi Mahila Sanghatane noting that such a restriction of protests to Freedom Park defeats the purpose of protesting itself, said, “Freedom Park was once a Central Jail. Now they are forcing us to protest there, and are also deciding what we can protest about. As an activist who has worked for decades in the women’s rights movement, neither my organisation nor I are able to decide when and where we can protest, but it is the City Police.”

Prominent author and historian Ramachandra Guha said, “Our country was founded because of the exercise of right to protest. Under the pretext of preventing traffic congestion, one cannot violate this fundamental right. Protests have taken place in Town Hall, Maurya Circle, Mysore Bank Circle and Anand Rao circle without disturbing traffic. Now, they are forcing us into a corner”. To this point, KS Vimala added, “The only reason for traffic congestion are not protests. Election rallies, religious processions, poor urban governance – there are many reasons why Bengaluru traffic remains poorly managed. We are asserting that our right to protest cannot be curtailed over such a flimsy basis as commuters ourselves as well as concerned citizens and activists.”

KV Bhat, Convenor of Joint Confederation of Trade Unions, said, “While we welcome the

> **Not just about being confined to Freedom Park, but also abuse of power to shut down public action**

initiative of the state government to celebrate International Day of Democracy in such a grand way, the CM has not fulfilled his promise of guaranteeing people of Bengaluru their constitutional rights. Even for the May Day rally, we had to approach the Karnataka High Court to be able to carry out our rallies.”

Mallamma of Karnataka Sexual Minorities Forum said, “Every year, the queer community organises a Pride march to celebrate and assert our rights as gender and sexual minorities. In 2022, this march was also disallowed. In 2023, we had to negotiate with the Home Minister, to allow our march. Even after this, our march was restricted to just half a kilometer. These protests and public demonstrations are not just spontaneous, but they have a long history of struggle for our rights.”

Horaatada Hakkigagi Janandolana comprises of labour rights groups, gender rights groups, Dalit groups, student and youth activist organisations, environmental activist groups, human rights and civil liberties organisations.

Honey, we shrunk the lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years. The water body appears to have reduced by nearly 75% in size overall.

Road widening effect

“The issue of Sunkalpalya shrinking in size has been brought to the notice of authorities on multiple occasions in the past. While BBMP says it has received permission from Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) for the road widening project, such expansions that encroach upon lake area or impact water holding capacity should be deemed illegal,” said another resident.

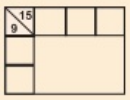
The project involves widening of the stretch from Mysore Road to Aditya Bakery Circle.

“As part of the widening project, BBMP has constructed a retaining wall. It appears that the wall is not letting rainwater flow into the lake. The lake does not have any visible inlet,” said another resident.

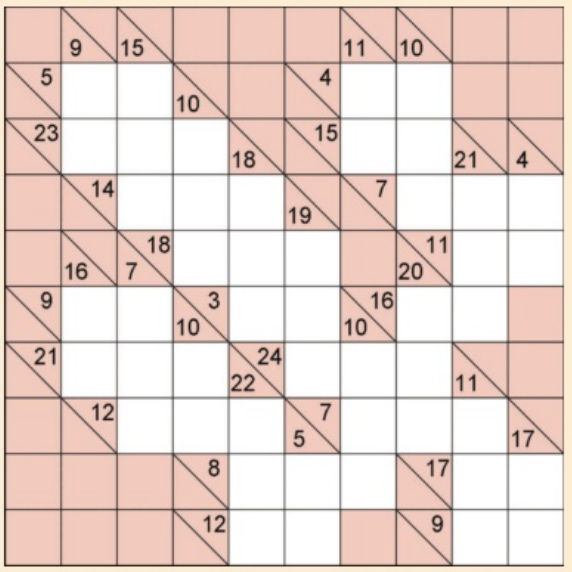
However, BBMP officials say all the rules and KTCDA guidelines have been followed and necessary approvals are in place. The total area of the lake will be maintained and it will be developed on the other side of the lake.

Kakuro

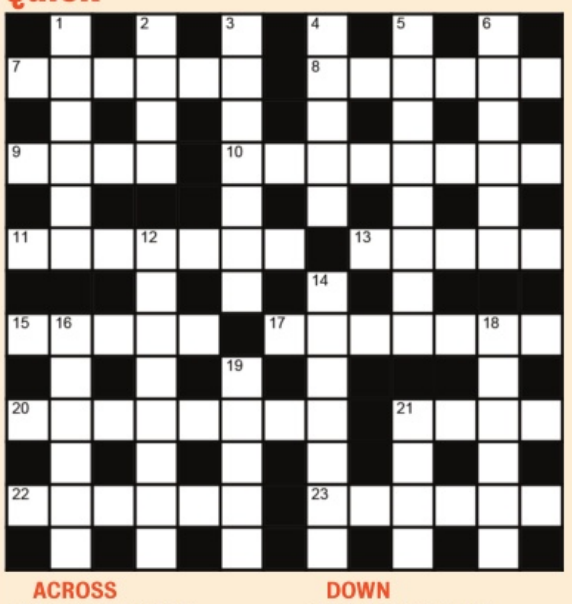
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Royal residence (6)
8 Relating to the backbone (6)
9 Really excited (4)
10 Negatively charged subatomic particle (8)
11 Rebuke or scold a person (7)
13 Units of length (5)
15 Total count (5)
17 Den (7)
20 Computer applications (8)
21 Blow a horn (4)
22 Trifoliate plant (6)
23 Captured or arrested (6)

DOWN

1 Type of bracelet (6)
2 Sharp pain (4)
3 Mislead, delude (7)
4 Cricket trophy (5)
5 Small in stature, like Tom Thumb, perhaps? (4,4)
6 Important city in Pakistan (6)
12 Family member (8)
14 Absence of noise (7)
16 Hospital on Bannerghatta Road (6)
18 Last Grand Slam tournament of the calendar year (2,4)
19 Dens (5)
21 Sort or kind (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

XNQWDOULQS QU MLW ULKOYB YX MLW WEWDQDA, BLQGL QDGNWKUWU BQML MLW UW-MMQDA UZD YX JQXW.

Linemaro

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Mindchow

You have got what it takes, but it will take everything you have got

Joke of the day

A: Doctor, will I be able to play the piano after the operation?
B: Yes, of course. A: Great! I never could before!

Loop

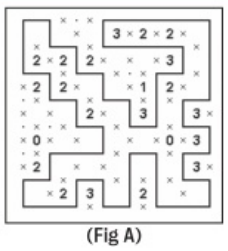
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

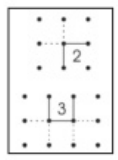
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

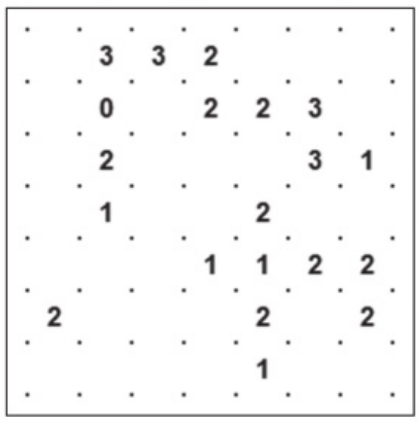
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



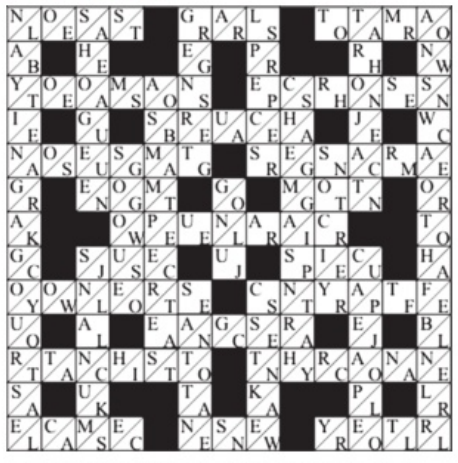
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



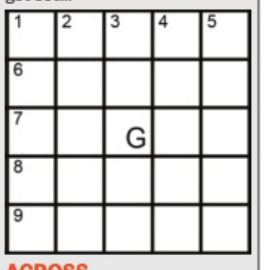
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

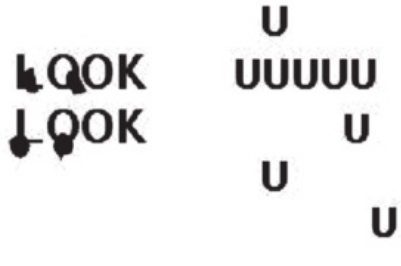
1 Sport; 6 Omaha; 7 Argon; 8 A stud; 9 Oates

DOWN

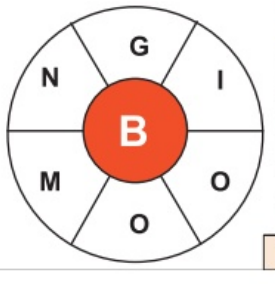
1 Oaths; 2 Art do; 3 Rouge; 4 Samoa; 5 PS tan

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

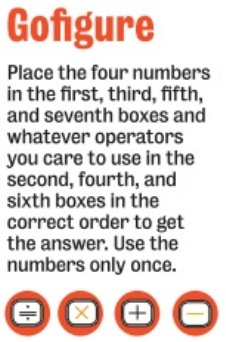
SudokuChallenge

	9			6	2			
		2				7		5
	5		1				8	
8				7		3		
2			6		9			4
		9		5				6
	3				8		5	
6		7				4		
			3	4			9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

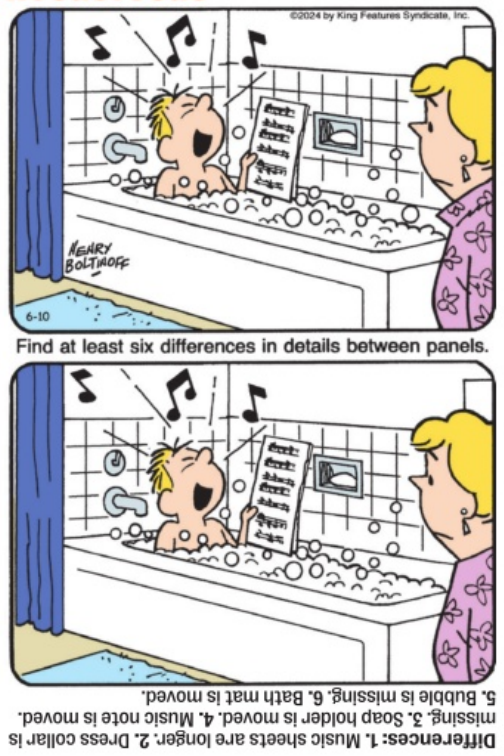


Easy = 13
3 8 9 9

Medium = 33
1 2 4 6

Hard = 14
1 5 9 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

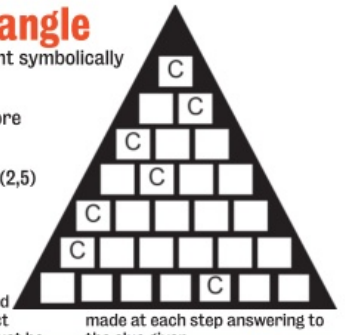
Differences: 1. Music sheets are longer. 2. Dress collar is missing. 3. Soap holder is moved. 4. Music note is moved. 5. Bubble is missing. 6. Bath mat is moved.

Riddler

Bambi has been writing a quiz for the last three hours. In the second hour she wrote two questions more than half of the number she had written in the first hour. In the third hour she wrote four times as many as she had in the second hour. If she has written a total of 80 questions, how many did Bambi write in the first hour?

Alpha triangle

1 Diamond's element symbolically
2 Account, abbr.
3 Scoundrel
4 Got a perfect score
5 Military trainee
6 Covered with
7 Actual, in reality (2,5)

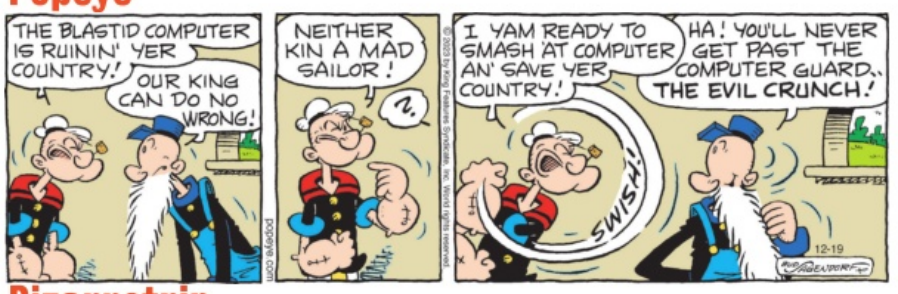


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


THE BLASTID COMPUTER IS RUININ' YER COUNTRY!
OUR KING CAN DO NO WRONG!
NEITHER KIN A MAD SAILOR!
?.
I YAM READY TO SMASH 'AT COMPUTER AN' SAVE YER COUNTRY!
HA! YOU'LL NEVER GET PAST THE COMPUTER GUARD, THE EVIL CRUNCH!
SWISH!
12-19

Bizarrotrip

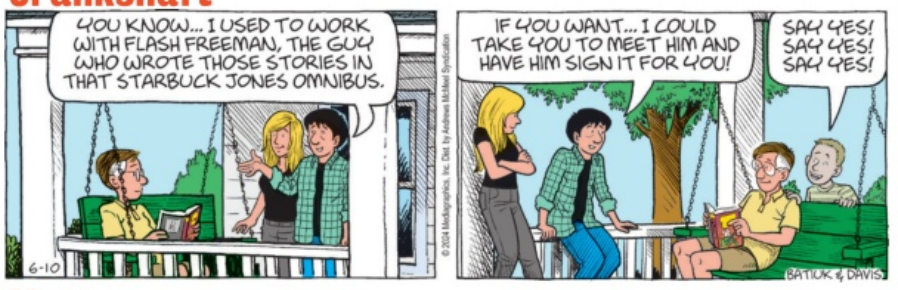
Wayno & Piraro 6-10-24
With these clones of their guitar player, The Grateful Dead can continue forever.
MUCHAS GARCIAS
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

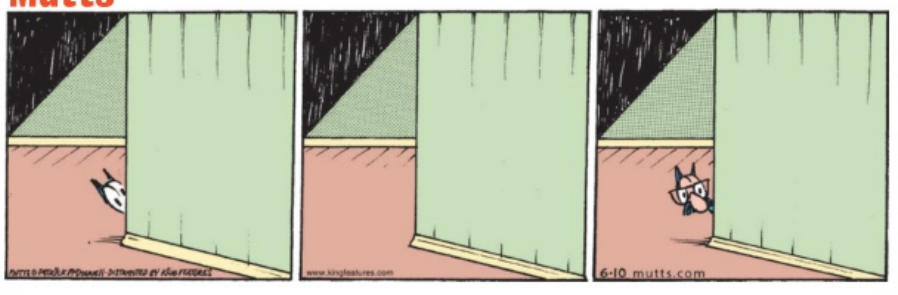
Hart of the city

LOOK AT ALL THE SHARPIE MARKS ON YOUR HANDS! YOU WROTE ALL THOSE FAKE VOTES FOR ANIME CLUB PRESIDENT!
NUH-UH! YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT!
OH, YEAH? THEN HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE IN THE ANIME CLUB, TREVOR?
TH-THIRTY FIVE? I-I-I MEAN, IT'S HARD TO TELL. PEOPLE COME IN AND OUT...WHO CAN SAY, RIGHT?
IF YOU PAID ANY ATTENTION TO THE PEOPLE IN THE CLUB, YOU'D KNOW WE ARE 15 MEMBERS STRONG!

Crankshaft


YOU KNOW... I USED TO WORK WITH FLASH FREEMAN, THE GUY WHO WROTE THOSE STORIES IN THAT STARBUCK JONES OMNIBUS.
IF YOU WANT... I COULD TAKE YOU TO MEET HIM AND HAVE HIM SIGN IT FOR YOU!
SAY YES! SAY YES! SAY YES!
6-10
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be happy. You may likely meet an influential person who may help you grow your work. Your professional contacts may also help you grow your business. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets; they might be dead assets. Work-related short travel may be expected. Property-related issues with the siblings might be settled down now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with family and friends; you may plan to go for an outing or some adventure tour with them. Kids' health might make you upset. You are blessed by the moon today; it may help you to find your ways out to get success. Your savings may be increased, which may increase your financial health.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be full of vitality. You may be likely to make good plans for the growth of your family business. You may be blessed by elders', so you might be able to implement new plans efficiently with the help of your team. Your wisdom may help you to make some good decisions, which may increase your social status.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may face health issues; last night sleeplessness may have made you mentally tired. You may not be focused for your day today at work. You may feel lazy, which may affect your commitments. It is advised to avoid rush driving and adventure tours. You are also advised to avoid spending money on worthless stuff.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy with social get-togethers; you may also meet some old friends. Your network might be strong, which may give you benefits in the near future on the work front. Natives related to export and import, glamour, and artefacts may perform better. Students are likely to perform better today in terms of study. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may have the good support of your family members. You may also have some expansion in your family business during these days, which will increase the social status of your family. You may also plan to expand your family in terms of a new child, which may improve bonding between family members. Students may apply for some scholarships for higher studies.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be more spiritual, your destiny may be with you, and you may expect good gain in your past investments. Bonding with the boss is likely to be improved, which may give you benefits in terms of promotions. You may also hear some good news from your sibling(s). You are advised to control your speech in love and personal life; it may have a negative effect.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be a victim of sleeplessness, which may make you lazy. You may also become careless; it may affect your inner strength negatively. You are likely to be nervous at work, which may affect your running project. You are advised to avoid making investments in dead stuff, rush driving, and spicy food.

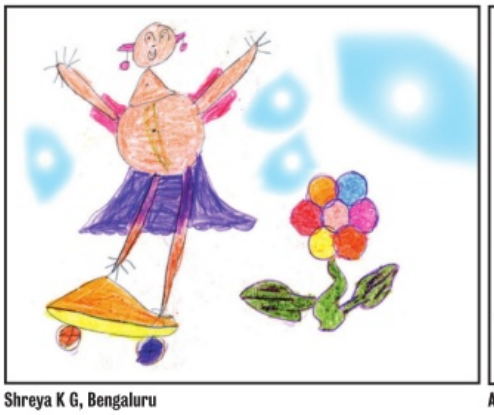
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed with the moon. You have some sort of internal strength, which may help you to make some difficult decisions at work. You may also have some investments in your business from outside resources. Disputes with the partner are likely to be resolved. Singles may expect to find a good match with the help of relatives or friends.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your inner strength may make you confident, which will reflect in your way of working. You are likely to get good news in legal matters. Your money, which was stuck, may be recovered now, which may increase your savings. Kids' health may be good now. In domestic life, try to avoid unnecessary arguments.

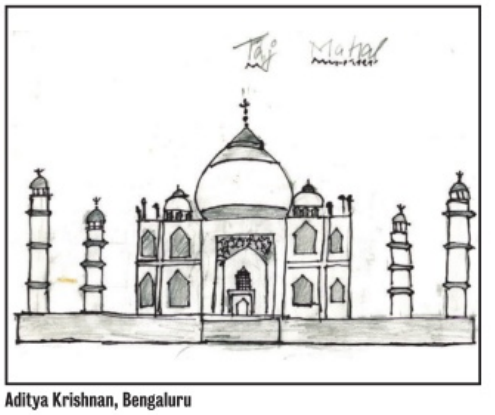
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, with the help of blessings, you may expect to get some gains in your past investments. You may plan to renovate your house or office. You may invest in some intellectual assets, like buying some books or updating your knowledge; you may also plan for higher studies. Singles may be likely to find their soulmate in the same field. Natives related to research, education, or agricultural work may perform better.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be unhappy; you may be a victim of arrogance that may affect your personal and professional life. You are likely to be under pressure. Some detachment from your responsibilities may be noticed in your nature. You are likely to be impatient at work. You are advised to take care of your parents. It is also advised to postpone some important decisions related to work.

KIDZONE



Shreya K G, Bengaluru



Aditya Krishnan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= [98i(1+99+99*100)/98i(1+99)]^1/2
= [100(1+99)/100]^1/2
= (100)^1/2=10

BULL'S EYE
bingo, bongo, boring, boom, BOOMING, boon

FAST FIVE

S	T	R	O	P
A	D	U	S	T
O	R	G	A	N
H	A	O	M	A
T	O	E	A	S

STRIKE OUT

L	O	S	S		G	A	S		O	T	R	A	N	T
A	H		E		P		R						N	
Y	E	O	M	A	N		E	C	H	O	E	S		
I		G		B	E	A	C	H		J			W	
N	O	U	G	A	T		S	E	S	A	M	E		
G		N	O	M		G		M	O	N			R	
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P	A	L	A	C	E		S	P	I	N	A	L		
	N			N		C		H			H			
B		P		D		A		P		L				

QUICK

	O		E		S		E		E		N			
C		L		O		V		E		R		C	O	P
L		I		I			N			Y		P		
S	O	F	T	W	A	R	E		T	O	O	T		
	P		A		L				S					
T	A	L	L	Y		H	I	D	E	O	U	T		
		E			E									
R	E	P	R	O	V	E		M	I	L	E	S		
	L			I			S				R			
A	G	O	G		E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N		
P	A	L	A	C	E		S	P	I	N	A	L		
	N			N		C		H			H			
B		P		D		A		P		L				

MENSA PUZZLE
look both ways before you cross

QUOTE UNCODE
Friendship is the shadow of the evening, which increases with the setting sun of life.

RIDDLER
20 questions.

SUDOKU

5	8	1	3	4	6	2	9	7
6	2	7	9	1	5	4	3	8
9	3	4	7	2	8	6	5	1
1	4	9	2	5	3	8	7	6
2	7	3	6	8	9	5	1	4
8	6	5	4	7	1	3	2	9
4	5	6	1	3	7	9	8	2
3	1	2	8	9	4	7	6	5
7	9	8	5	6	2	1	4	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, Ac, Cad, Aced, Cadet, Coated, De facto.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 9 + 3 − 8 = 13
Medium
2 + 6 x 4 + 1 = 33
Hard
2 x 9 − 5 + 1 = 14

KAKURO

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Practice makes perfect— 'Salaar' fame actress Sriya Reddy is all set to take on her next big role, as she was seen practising 'Kalaripayattu' action scenes. The diva has left her fans curious and excited with this behind-the-scenes glimpse

Master of comedy

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who will be seen sharing screen space with Akshay Kumar once again in "Housefull 5" after "Desi Boyz" and "Khel Khel Mein", has heaped praise on the star and called him a "true master of comedy."

"Akshay is incredibly talented and a true master of comedy. We've known each other for a long time, and working with him is always a pleasure," the actress, who is heading to London for the shoot of "Housefull 5", told IANS.

Talking about working with Akshay in the recently released "Khel Khel Mein", she said: "Our cameo in Khel Khel Mein received a fantastic response from audiences, and I'm eagerly looking forward to having a great time working with him on Housefull 5"

The first installment of the film released in 2010, which had Akshay, Riteish Deshmukh, Arjun Rampal, Lara Dutta, Deepika Padukone and late star Jiah Khan. Two years later, the second installment was released. A standalone sequel to Housefull and also an uncredited remake of the 1998 Malayalam film "Mattupetti Machan." The first two parts were helmed by Sajid Khan.

It had a larger star cast with names such Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, Asin, John Abraham, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh and others. —IANS

Co-star wish list

Nargis Fakhri expresses desire to share screen space with these actors

Actress Nargis Fakhri, who left an exceptional mark on the audience's mind with the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer "Rockstar", has expressed her desire to work with stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Ranveer Singh, Vicky Kaushal and Ayushmann Khurrana.

The "Azhar" fame star said, "First of many would be Ranveer Singh. I love his energy and the intensity he gets on set. I'd like to do something like a period drama with him."

Nargis continued, "Another actor I really am impressed with is Ayushmann Khurrana. This guy made a space for himself in the industry with his quirky yet poignant choice of scripts. I really like the simplicity and effortless quality in Rajkummar Rao. He's truly special whenever he's on screen. She expressed her desire to work with megastar Amitabh Bachchan. "Vicky Kaushal is also doing great! Of course, in stalwarts, I'd love if I can collaborate with Amitabh Bachchan. And of course, would love to team back with Ranbir in yet another Imtiaz Ali film, wouldn't that be fun?"

Nargis' filmography can be considered as one of the finest and fun-filled for the actress as she had a wonderful opportunity to work with prominent stars such as John Abraham in Shoojit Sircar's "Madras Cafe" and with Varun Dhawan in David Dhawan's directorial "Main Tera Hero" alongside Ileana D'Cruz.

The actress was last seen in the 2020 action thriller "Torbaaz" which also featured Sanjay Dutt, Rahul Dev, Gavie Chahal, Babrak Akbari and Rahul Mittra. The film premiered on Netflix on December 11, 2020, and received a mediocre response from the audience and critics as well. **—IANS**

Say it with a smooch

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry and her fiance Orlando Bloom packed in some PDA at the 2024 MTV Video Music Awards, as she gave a cheeky appreciation to her partner.

Orlando paid tribute to his fiancée in a heartfelt introduction, right before her video vanguard award acceptance speech and performance, reports 'People' magazine.

"You fell in love with her as Katy Perry. I fell in love with her as Katheryn Hudson", Bloom began his speech at the UBS Arena on Long Island. "You know her as a global superstar who brings love, light and her unique sense of humour to every song she writes and music video she creates. I know her as a mother, as a partner, who brings that same love and joy to our family".

"In moments when we've most needed it, her music and the remarkable world she creates has brought a sense of joy and laughter, inspiring generations of people from all over the world", he added. "She loves with her whole heart, and it's kind of irresistible. I see it reflected everywhere; in our home, in her love for her work, but especially in her love for her fans. I'm so proud of you...." **— IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

First look unveiled

Popular actor and dubbing artiste P Ravishankar, known for acting in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada movies including Kempe Gowda, is introducing his son Advay as a hero with his latest directorial venture Subrahmanyaa. Thirumal Reddy and Anil Kadiyala are bankrolling this socio-fantasy adventure under the banner of SG Movie Creations.

On the auspicious occasion of Vinayaka Chaturthi, the makers of Subrahmanyaa unveiled the film's first look poster. The poster was launched by Kannada superstar Dr Shiva Rajkumar. With long hair and a beard, Advay looks elegant in the poster in a specially designed outfit. It has received good responses.

It is said that around 60% of the shooting is completed and post-production work is in progress at Red Chillies Studios in Mumbai. VFX and CGI work is also in progress at leading studios across Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Chennai. The film boasts top-notch technical expertise, with music by Ravi Basrur (known for KGF and Salaar), cinematography by Vignesh Raj, editing by Vijay Kumar, and production design by Ullas Hydur (Sapta Sagaradache and Charlie 777). Subrahmanyaa is set for a Pan India release in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.

Trailer released

The team of Sanju is excited about the release of the movie's trailer by Dynamic Prince Prajwal Devaraj. Prominent personalities of Kannada film industry including senior producer Sa Ra Govindu, producer K Manju, and director MD Kaushik graced the trailer launch and wished the movie's cast and crew all the best. The movie Sanju is expected to arrive in theaters shortly.

Director Yathiraj said Sanju is his sixth movie as a director in Sandalwood.

"The movie that has a tagline Agamya Payanig is set in the backdrop of a bus stand. The protagonist represents the common man. His life also has ups and downs. The female lead character too has problems in her life. Most of the shoot of the movie was held in and around Madikeri. I thank the producer for providing all amenities to complete the shooting of the movie," said Yathiraj.

Manvith, who plays the hero, appealed to movie buffs to encourage the film. "I am a son of a farmer. I thank the director and the producer for giving me an opportunity to act in this movie," said Manvith. Shravya Rao, the daughter of veteran actress Rekha Das, is paired opposite Manvith in the movie.